

B O R O U G H

O F

M A L M E S B U R Y

1969

BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1969.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Monkton Hill,
Chippenham.
Tel. No. Chippenham 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the
Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham,
and the Rural Districts of
Malmesbury and Calne and Chippenham.

Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.

School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

H. Todd, M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Todd in addition carries out the duties of
Borough Surveyor.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

Mrs. V.L. Gregory. (From December 1969).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals
with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report
for the year 1969.

There was a rise in the birth rate for the year,
and a decreased death rate. The vital statistics for
the year are generally favourable.

The Public Health Inspector/Borough Surveyor, is
too busy to devote much of his time to public health
inspection and inspections under the Housing Acts. I
consider he needs an assistant for this work.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of
Mr. S.G.V. Williamson, for many years Secretary to the
Medical Officer of Health, who tragically and regrettably
died in October 1969.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Council and its
Officers for their help and unfailing courtesy.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. WRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	227
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) . . .	2,700
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969 according to Rate Book)	932
Number of Council dwellings (end of 1969)	274
Number of applicants for Council dwellings . . . (end of 1969)	85
Rateable value	£91,481
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£ 347

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES:

Birth and Death Rates as compared with other areas.
(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population standardised*)

	<u>Birth Rate:</u>		<u>Death Rate:</u>	
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Malmesbury Borough	15.6	17.5	17.8	10.4
Malmesbury R.D.C.	19.3	19.3	9.3	10.3
Wiltshire	17.6	17.6	10.9	10.7
England & Wales	16.9	16.3	11.9	11.9

* Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar-General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

STILL BIRTHS.

Two still births were notified during 1969.

INFANT MORTALITY.

No deaths of infants under the age of one year occurred.

DEATHS.

The following deaths were notified during 1969:-

<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
17	16	33

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
<u>1 - 4 years</u>			
Other malignant neoplasms	1	-	
All other accidents	1	-	
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> -	2
<u>45 - 54 years</u>			
Ischaemic heart disease	1	-	
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> -	2
<u>55 - 64 years</u>			
Other tuberculosis, including late effects	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease	1	1	
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	
Congenital anomalies	1	-	
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	7
<u>65 - 74 years</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	
Other malignant neoplasms	-	1	
Cerebro-vascular disease	2	1	
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-	
All other accidents	-	1	
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 3	7
<u>75 years and over</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	1	-	
Ischaemic heart disease	-	4	
Other forms of heart disease ...	-	2	
Cerebro-vascular disease	1	3	
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	2	
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	1	
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 12	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total of all causes:	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 16	33

Coronary heart disease and cerebro-vascular disease (strokes) were the main causes of death. There were three deaths from accidents and two deaths from lung cancer.

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during 1969:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	9
Dysentery	...	...	54
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	45

Infectious Hepatitis.

Cases continued to occur throughout the year until October 1969, after which no more cases have been reported, so it can be presumed that all the population have now acquired natural immunity to this virus infection. It also spread widely in the surrounding rural districts.

Dysentery.

There was a sharp epidemic of sonne dysentery starting in the latter part of June, and ending in mid-July. The epidemic was based on a local primary school. Hand washing in a special antiseptic fluid was instituted for all pupils, and all school meals staff were examined for the disease. I sent out a circular to all parents informing them about the disease and how to prevent it spreading. With their co-operation the outbreak was speedily brought to an end.

In these epidemics it is essential to visit the affected families in their homes to make sure that there are no food-handlers involved. When the numbers to be visited became too many for Mr. Todd and myself, I was most grateful for the co-operation of the Malmesbury Rural District Council, who lent us a health inspector to assist in the work.

I should also like to express my thanks to Dr. Paul Mann, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Bath, who was responsible for the many laboratory investigations.

Tuberculosis.

One case was reported. The Chest Physician, assisted by health visitors, follows up contacts of the disease. The Wiltshire County Council offers immunisation against tuberculosis to children at secondary schools.

Measles.

Nine cases were reported. This disease can have serious complications, and it is hoped that parents will accept the immunisation offered to their children by Wiltshire County Council.

Immunisation.

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following statistics of immunisation carried out in the Borough:-

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS, MEASLES,
POLIOMYELITIS.

Year of Birth:		1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1960 - 64	1954 - 59	Others under 16
Primary imms. completed during 1969	Diph.	32	20	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Wh. cough	32	20	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Tetanus	32	20	1	-	-	1	1	-
	Measles	1	1	12	4	-	6	-	-
	Polio	32	21	2	-	-	6	-	-
Reinforcing imms. given in 1969	Diph.	-	15	25	1	1	39	1	-
	Wh. cough	-	14	18	-	1	9	-	-
	Tetanus	-	15	25	1	1	40	1	7
	Polio	-	15	22	1	1	44	-	-

SMALLPOX.

Age Group:	<u>Months</u>				<u>Years</u>		
	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	1	2 - 4	5 - 15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	9	11	6
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

WATER SUPPLIES.

I am indebted to Mr. C.R. Phillips, Engineer to the North Wilts. Water Board, for the following information:-

No substantial changes have occurred in the arrangement of the water supplies of the North Wilts. Water Board during this year. The Board's water supplies are obtained generally from underground sources in limestone aquifers, having relatively abundant storage facilities and providing water of a high standard of purity suitable for public supplies. The water is hard in character (between 150 and 360 p.p.m. total hardness).

Chemical Analysis of Raw Water.

						<u>Charlton Borehole</u>
						<u>p.p.m.</u>
Date:						22.10.69.
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.3
Free CO ₂	...	...	...	...	...	27
Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	23
Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	290
Carbts.	...	...	...	...	...	250
Non-Carbts.	...	...	...	...	...	40
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Oxygen ab.	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Alb. Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0.20
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Fluoride	...	...	...	...	...	0.4

The water supplies of the area of the North Wilts. Water Board have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Regular supervision of the quality of water supplies is exercised by submitting, every week, samples for bacteriological examination.

Under the year of review, 1,398 samples from consumers' points of supply were examined. 1,327 were satisfactory, having coli. counts of less than 1; 58 were reported to have coli. counts of 1 - 2 and 13 had coli. counts of 3 or more.

On the occasions when reports of coli. counts are received, investigations and repeated samplings are immediately undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports are received.

Similar supervisory work is regularly done with untreated waters of the Board's sources, and in the year under review, the results were as follows:-

674 samples of raw water were submitted:-

Excellent, coli. count of less than 1	...	...	484
Satisfactory, coli. count of 1 - 3	...	...	112
Suspicious, coli. count of 4 - 10	...	...	39
Unsatisfactory, coli. count of more than 10	...	...	<u>39</u>
			<u>674</u>

Samples excellent and satisfactory 88½%.

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supplies of between 0.1 and 0.3 p.p.m.

The Board continues to exercise supervision of the quality of raw water from all the sources by submitting samples to their Consultant Chemists, The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and any changes in chemical or mineralogical qualities of the water are reported upon by Mr. Gordon Miles, the Principal of those Laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.4 to 0.7 p.p.m. in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone, but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

The Board is advised by the Consultant Chemists that all the waters supplied are not plumbo-solvent.

The Board continues to make provision for increases in demand for water by seeking additional sources, and this work is being done in close co-operation with the River Authorities, whose statutory areas extend through the Board's area of supply.

A report of the World Health Organisation that was issued in 1969 recommends all countries to introduce fluoridation of water supplies. To quote from the report:-

"... Dental caries is one of man's most prevalent chronic diseases, affecting people of all ages in all countries."

"... Fluoridation does not eradicate dental caries but substantially reduces its prevalence and incidence. Best results are seen in children who

have consumed fluoridated water since birth, as they generally have less than half the number of dental cavities that they would otherwise have had. ..."

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Modernisation and extension to the Sewage Works took place during the year.

HOUSING.

The need to take continuing action on sub-standard housing has been stressed in previous Annual Reports.

During the year 1969 the Council gave 6 grants for modernising houses.

The 1969 Housing Act allows grants to be made for repairs to old houses as well as improvements. It is hoped that the Council will take the opportunity presented by this Act to plan now for the preservation of those houses that are not beyond repair at reasonable expense.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS.

These are presented in the attached report of the Public Health Inspector.

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Public Health Inspector's section of this report, and in doing so wish to express my appreciation of all the advice and assistance extended to me by Dr. Wray and the Council's Officers.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply continued to remain satisfactory in quantity and quality, except in respect of its degress of hardness.

Population served	...	...	...	...	2,700
No. supplied direct to houses	...	...	...	...	2,643
No. supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	...	57
Fluoride content	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.1 p.p.m.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage works extensions progressed steadily during the year despite the wet conditions which persisted, largely due to the situation of the sewage works. The sewage works staff managed to achieve a reasonable standard of efficiency, despite the difficulties under which they operated.

The sewerage system, although consisting in part of rectangular section stone culverts, has given little trouble, apart from minor blockages. The storm water overflow at Holloway was found to be responding prematurely to storm conditions, therefore, the weir level was raised.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

No samples of pasteurised milk were taken during the year, but samples from the same source are taken in the adjoining district.

There are no dealers or distributors of raw milk in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960.

<u>Type of Shop</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Inspected</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Improved</u>
Grocers	11	6	2	2
Butchers	5	4	1	1
Greengrocers	2	2	-	-
Cafes and restaurants ...	4	2	1	1
Hotels	5	3	-	-
Public houses	6	3	-	-
Off licences	2	1	-	-
Bread and cake shops ...	2	1	-	-
Wet fish shops	1	-	-	-
Sweet shops	4	1	-	-
Fish and chip shops ...	2	2	1	-

POULTRY INSPECTION.

There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963.

The inspection is carried out at one private slaughterhouse in the district and 100% inspection has been maintained, with the part-time assistance of a local partnership of veterinary surgeons, to whom I wish to express my gratitude.

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Inspected by Veterinary Surgeons	816	40	748	2837
Inspected by Public Health Inspector	1198	82	1012	3026
Total:	2014	122	1760	5863
Carcases condemned ...	7	5	8	11
% animals affected ...	0.385	4.13	0.456	0.188
Parts condemned	483	5	250	497
% animals affected ...	24	4.13	14.25	0.844
Parts condemned for T.B.	-	-	-	52
% animals affected ...	-	-	-	0.943
Parts condemned for C.B.	6	-	-	-
% animals affected ...	0.298	-	-	-
Carcases refrigerated ...	-	-	-	-

The premises are inadequate for the throughput, a feature which does not facilitate inspection, and only minor improvements are possible. A number of these have been effected during 1969.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Four shops were inspected during the year.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

There is one site licensed for 12 caravans and during this year conditions improved considerably. New electricity supply cables were installed; tree planting; fencing; and new vans substituted for those in poor condition.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection continues to take up a greater portion of the working hours of the general labour force, and in consequence the Council agreed to the purchase of a new refuse vehicle of much greater capacity to save on time taken in journeys to the tip.

The Council abandoned the collection of waste paper because it is not an economic proposition and made excessive demands on the time of the general labour force.

The twice weekly collection of refuse in the older part of the Borough continued, and a once weekly collection in the remainder of the Borough.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

I summarise below the details requested in Circular 1/69.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Insp's.</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Number of Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
1. Factories in which Sections 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	4	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	17	4	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
 (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
			<u>To H.M. Insptr.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insptr.</u>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork)--		-	-	-	-
Total:	1	-	-	-	-

There are no Outworkers registered in this district.

This item concludes my section of this Annual Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. TODD.

Public Health Inspector.

